

VICTORIAN RURAL MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP (VRMS) SCHEME

2021 GUIDELINES

KEY DATES

Date	Activity
4 May 2021	Applications open
3 June 2021	Applications close
31 July 2021	Offers sent (via email)
7 August 2021	Last day to accept offers
August to December 2021	Payment of scholarships commence

The Victorian Rural Medical Scholarship (VRMS) Scheme supports career pathways to rural medical practice and assists rural and regional health services to attract, employ and retain medical graduates. The VRMS scheme supports medical students with a commitment to working in rural and regional Victoria by providing financial assistance towards living and tertiary expenses in the final year of their medical degree and into their rural intern year.

The VRMS scheme is administered by the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV) on behalf of the Department of Health (DH).

Scholarships valued at \$20,000 each are available to be awarded to final year medical students in Victoria. Scholarship recipients are required to commit to a two- year return of service in rural or regional Victoria (within three years from graduating from medical school).

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for a VRMS scholarship in 2021, you must:

1. review VRMS scheme guidelines for 2021 and ensure that you meet all eligibility criteria.
2. complete and submit the online VRMS 2021 application form via the Victorian Intern Match administered by PMCV by 5pm Monday 3 June

2021. You must opt-in to participate in the Victorian Rural Preferential Allocation (VRPA) as part of the Intern Match.

The VRMS 2021 application will be available via PMCV VRPA match process from 9am 4 May 2021 to 5pm 3 June 2021.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a VRMS scholarship in 2021, applicants must:

- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen.
- be currently studying full-time towards an accredited Australian primary medical qualification at a Victorian University OR be studying full-time towards an accredited Australian primary medical qualification at an interstate Australian university and have completed your Year 12 schooling in Victoria¹
- be in a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) or be a domestic full fee-paying student.
- be in the final year of studies and graduating in 2021.
- not be in receipt of other scholarships, cadetships or bursaries with a combined value of more than \$7,000 per year.

¹ University of New South Wales -Albury Wodonga Clinical School graduates do not need to have completed Year 12 in VIC.

- participate in the VRPA (as such selecting only rural health services and intern training programs in your preference list)
- commit to working in rural and regional Victoria for two years post-graduation.

Table A – Rural Generalist Internships

Region	Parent hospital
Barwon South West Vic Rural Generalist Intern Training Program	South West Healthcare (Warrnambool)
Grampians Rural Generalist Intern Training Program	East Grampians Health Service (Ararat)
Loddon-Mallee Rural Generalist Intern Training Program	Echuca Regional Health
Hume Rural Generalist Intern Training Program (M2M)	NCN Health – Nathalia, Cobram and Numurkah
Gippsland Rural Generalist Intern Training Program	Bairnsdale Regional Health Service

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Successful scholarship applicants must commit to working in rural/regional Victoria for two years post-graduation (within three years from graduating from medical school) and will be required to enter into a Scholarship Agreement with the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV). Return of service obligations are monitored by the PMCV.

If you choose to accept the offer you will be required to:

- accept employment with the health service to which you have been offered employment for 2022.
- sign the Scholarship Agreement with the PMCV

Before accepting a VRMS scholarship, successful applicants are advised to seek independent legal and financial advice on the Victorian Rural Medical Scholarship Scheme, the conditions attached to the scholarship, and the consequences if the recipient does not comply with those conditions.

A copy of the Scholarship Agreement is available from PMCV upon request.

HOW APPLICATIONS ARE ASSESSED

VRMS applications will be assessed by a joint panel from DH and the PMCV.

Applicants will be considered for a scholarship where:

- the applicant meets all eligibility criteria.
- the applicant has agreed to the return of service obligation.
- the applicant has provided written responses to the key selection criteria.
- Applications will be assessed according to how well applicants address the following key selection criteria:
 - demonstrated commitment to a career in rural practice within Victoria.
 - demonstrated understanding of the professional and personal issues involved in rural practice.
 - interest in undertaking training as a Victorian Rural Generalist.

HOW TO ACCEPT A SCHOLARSHIP OFFER

VRMS scholarship offers will be made in writing by the PMCV to eligible applicants.

Scholarship offers are tied to the outcomes of the intern computer match and contingent on the successful applicant accepting employment with the eligible health service to which they have been matched/offered employment for 2022.

If you receive an offer, you may accept or decline the offer by responding to the PMCV as instructed in the letter of offer.

PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIPS

VRMS Scholarships are paid to recipients by the PMCV.

Scholarships are paid as a lump sum unless otherwise agreed to by the recipient and the PMCV. If payment is made in instalments, the final payment cannot be received later than 31 December 2021.

CONTACT

Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV)

Allocation and Placement Service
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